

REMARKS

Claims 1, 6, 7 and 9-25 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 1 has been amended.

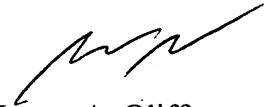
Applicant appreciates the courtesies extended by Examiner Stormer to Applicant's representative during the January 22, 2004 personal interview. The points discussed are incorporated into the Remarks below and constitute Applicant's record of the interview.

During the personal interview, the Examiner and Applicant's representative discussed the Restriction/Election of Species Requirement, the October 22, 2002 Information Disclosure Statement, the objections to the drawings, specification and claims and the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and 35 U.S.C. §103(a). As agreed, the Examiner will reconsider his position regarding the Restriction/Election of Species Requirement and that the objections and the rejections over the applied art appear to be overcome by the amendments to the claims.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1, 6, 7 and 9-25 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:SMS/sxb

Date: January 28, 2004

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